

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 ACDA-07 EUR-12 AF-08
/100 W

-----031053 124049 /14

R 022330Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2593
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0595

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF
SUBJECT: EARLY REACTIONS TO SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO THE SYG'S
REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST RELEASED FEBRUARY 28 CONCENTRATE
ON TWO IMPRESSIONS: THAT REPORT WAS NOT ONE OF THE ROUTINE
SECRETARIAT PRODUCTS, AND THAT WHILE A "SUCCESS," ITS
EVENHANDEDNESS PROVOKED CERTAIN CRITICISM FROM BOTH SIDES.
EGYPTIANS NOTED THAT THEY ARE CAUGHT IN EMBARRASSING
POSITION OF NOT WANTING TO LOSE FORWARD MOMENTUM OF GA
RES 31/62, FOLLOWED BY GOOD SYG REPORT, WHILE AT SAME TIME
WISHING TO AVOID SC MEETING THAT WOULD RISK OF MOVING
INTO SUBSTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI MISSION (ELIAV) TOLD US THAT ALTHOUGH SYG'S
REPORT WAS GOOD ATTEMPT AT OBJECTIVITY, IT WAS IN ERROR IN
PLACING UNDUE STRESS ON PLO. ELIAV SAID "NEARLY
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ONE-HALF OF REPORT DISCUSSES PLO AS IF WHOLE MIDDLE
EAST REVOLVES AROUND THE PALESTINIANS." ELIAV ADDED
THAT REPORT'S FINAL SENTENCES WERE HELPFUL IN NOT
REFERRING MORE DIRECTLY TO POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON REPORT.

3. EGYPTIANS (HAGGAG AND HENDAWY IN SEPARATE CONVER-

SATIONS) LABELLED REPORT A SUCCESS AND NOTED THAT IT MAINTAINED BALANCE WITHOUT PRESCRIBING HOW PROBLEMS OF SUBSTANCE MIGHT BE RESOLVED. THEY REMARKED THAT FIRST RESPONSE FROM CAIRO HAS BEEN POSITIVE. HENDAWY NOTED EGYPTIAN EMBARRASSMENT AT WISHING TO MAINTAIN IMPETUS OF SUCCESSES OF GA RESOLUTION 31/62 AND SYG'S REPORT AND YET NOT WANTING TO ENGAGE SECURITY COUNCIL IN NONPRODUCTIVE DEBATE. "WITHOUT A MEETING THEN THE PROGRESS TO DATE COULD FALL FLAT."

4. BRITISH MISOFF (BATTISCOMBE) SAID REACTION FROM LDNDON WAS THAT REPORT REPRESENTED USEFUL COMPENDIUM OF WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW. BATTISCOMBE ADDED THAT IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER TERZI, LATTER TOOK EXCPETION TO SYG'S SUGGESTING PLO SHOULD CHANGE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL CHARTER (PARA 20) MOREOVER, IN HIS, TERZI'S VIEW CHARTER CLEARLY WOULD NOT BE CHANGED.

5. UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL JAMES JONAH WHO WAS PRINCIPAL DRAFTING OFFICER OF REPORT SAID ARABS HAS REACTED CAUTIOUSLY TO PROPOSALS OF INTERIM MEASURES (PARAS 12 AND 13). SOME HAVE STATED THAT THEY WOULD BE OPPOSED TO SUCH MEASURES IF THEY WOULD FUNCTION TO DELAY OR STAND IN WAY OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. IDEA WORKING GROUP, HOWEVER, ORIGINATED WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. YOUNG

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Disposition Remarks:
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